

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute the following new paragraph [0017]

**[0017]** The sipes 16 have a non-linear configuration of at least two inclined portions. The sipes 16 in FIG. 1 are formed of two inclined portions 18, 20. The inclined portions 18, 20 are placed at substantially similar, but oppositely inclined angles to form an inverse V configuration, wherein the apex [[22]] of the V is located at approximately the equatorial plane EP of the tire. The spacing between circumferentially adjacent sipes 16 [[22]] is constant, but may be varied to permit pitching of the tire for optimization of the noise characteristics of the tire.

Please substitute the following new paragraph [0037]:

**[0037]** The disclosed rib configuration may also be used in connected with lateral grooves, as seen in the commonly assigned co-pending patent application Serial No. 10/601,986, filed June 23, 2003, Attorney Docket No. DN2003-096.